



Dr Tolani and Ms Venkatachalam receiving the guard of honor

Grand Graduation at TMI

8th BSME batch passes out in style

[Pune, 22 August]

The eighth batch of the Bachelor of Science (Marine Engineering) at Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI) was awarded certificates, cash prizes, trophies and medals by the officiating Chief Guest Ms Lakshmi Venkatachalam, Director General of Shipping and Ex Officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, as well as by Prof Dr LK Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani. The glittering passing out ceremony took place at the sprawling TMI campus at Induri, near Pune.

After felicitating the guests with flowers, Mr. BK Saxena, Principal, TMI, addressed the gathering first. Welcoming everyone, he said, "In these four years we have converted the young and fresh boys and girls into responsible citizens and budding seafarers. I feel proud and thank the sincere faculty for their untiring efforts throughout." Advising the graduates, Mr. Saxena went on,

"You are now entering a competitive and exciting world. Be active and alert. Today everyone is leaving TMI as equals; each one of you will have to prove his or her mettle as you forge ahead in life. You are leaving Induri with the brand name of TMI: your actions must make your parents, the nation, TMI and your employers proud. I wish you all the very best".

Mr. IK Basu, Program Chair for the Class of 2009 presented the Course Report next. Prof Dr LK Maheshwari then awarded the degree certificates to the graduates.

Lauding Dr Tolani's efforts in setting up an awe inspiring and mammoth campus, Dr Maheshwari stated, "I wish TMI great success in the future and appreciate the tireless efforts of the faculty of TMI, BITS Pilani and the Tolani family. It is nice to know that TMI is going on the lines of BITS Pilani when it comes to producing a 'complete' student. This is the duty of the institute; it is not right on the part of the institute if the candidate ends up in a 'finishing school' after his or her course completion".

Addressing the graduates, Dr Maheshwari went on, "You young citizens will be global citizens now; a part of the global village. Take pride in being an Indian, TMIian and BITSian. Furthermore, you should stick to your ethics, never compromise on quality and practice optimism as much as possible. And remember, there is no substitute for hard work; that is the best way to success.

"It is good to know that TMI is promoting health and physical fitness. Lastly, I appreciate Dr Tolani's gesture of inviting me for this joyous and momentous occasion. I wish all the students good luck".

Soon afterwards, Ms Venkatachalam gave away the awards following her keynote address. Praising the immaculate guard of honour and the fantastic facilities at TMI, she said, "I consider it a great privilege to be here and thank Dr Tolani for the invitation. Furthermore, the 'CRISIL Grade I' certification awarded to TMI only goes to show the efficiency of the institute. I am also happy that TMI believes in gender empowerment,

encouraging and duly rewarding the fairer sex". Addressing the students, she said, "I appreciate that you have emerged from an arduous period of training, I am sure that a lot of endurance is required to achieve whatever you have accomplished, not forgetting the faculty and parents who stood beside you. Shipping, the industry you are entering, is a wonderful industry with a great history".

"On the flipside," Ms Venkatachalam went on, "The industry is also terrorised by issues like criminalisation of seafarers and piracy. I am not discouraging or frightening you; just cautioning you about these factors, besides the recession that is affecting the maritime sector today.

"The focus of shipping should shift from the metropolitan areas to rural and semi urban areas. I urge more women to join the industry. You will work shoulder to shoulder with many nationalities, some of which may not have interacted with Indians before, and so you will have to develop wider interpersonal skills. However, since India is a mosaic of cultures, you

already have a good launching pad. Last but not the least, you are global ambassadors for a global industry; I wish you only success", the DGS ended.

Priyesh Sharma, the outstanding graduate who bagged the maximum number of medals and prizes, delivered the valedictory address on behalf of Bachelor of Science Marine Engineering Class 2009.

Penultimately, Dr Sujata Naik Tolani, Vice Chairperson, TMI Governing Council, addressed the gathering. Congratulating the graduates on their achievements, she nevertheless injected a note of caution, "Remember that talent and education have never inoculated anyone against failure. However, failure teaches and exposes areas about a person which you may have never known about before."

"The recession is all about survival of the fittest," Dr. Tolani went on, pointing out that the students' "efforts and grueling

schedule at TMI would never go in vain". In closing, she wished everyone well for the future, advising the graduates to, "Always emphasise safety: an area which knows no compromise."

After the presentation of mementoes to the guests, Capt Raj Razdan, Provost, TMI, delivered the vote of thanks, thanking the students, faculty, guests, parents, trusts, sponsors, shipping companies and TMI's internship/placement partners. Giving a few words of advice to the graduates, he said, "Try and do the right things in life which gratify and astonish. Make happiness a way of life. May you have a great, successful life ahead," he ended.

The eventful day ended with a grand luncheon at the sprawling campus.

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Priyesh Sharma bagged the maximum number of medals and prizes



Ms Venkatachalam rewarding the awardees



Dr Maheshwari rewarding the awardees

